CARROLL.

513 First Street Helena, MT 59601 406-459-8479 February 7, 2007

John Sinnud Janna Taylor Eve Franklin Bill Beck Tim Callahan Edith Clark

William Glaser

Ray Hawk Cynthia Hiner Galen Hollenbaugh Joev Jayne Dave Kasten Bill McChesney

Penny Morgan

John Musgrove Rick Ripley Jon Sesso Jack Wells Craig Witte

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee

4084474532

RE: HB 368 - Support for Broadcasting Legislative Proceedings

Not often do circumstances come together that make it possible to make a small investment so that services can be provided to many. Televising the 2007 Legislative Proceedings across Montana is an excellent opportunity. I am writing to ask for your support of HB 368.

For the past three sessions, Helena Civic Television (HCTV) has provided a television broadcast of the Legislative sessions in Helena under a contract with the State. The broadcast was initially limited to the Helena area. In 2005, the broadcast was expanded to Billings and Missoula via Public Education Government (PEG) channels with limited success.

Working for the past two years with Bresnan Communications and VisionNet, HCTV was able to secure a dedicated, statewide cable channel and the technology to broadcast via a cable channel. Stephen Maly, executive director, and the HCTV board members began fundraising so that we could take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

I can tell you that everything is working and we have secured temporary funding. State government is getting into the homes of Montanans. Anyone involved in government should be saluting this milestone and be interested in assuring this service continues. And it can for less than \$167,500 annually (\$125,000 for the broadcasting costs and \$43,500 to create archives).

As a HCTV board member, I am so proud that the dedicated staff of HCTV had the foresight to make this happen. Please be part of keeping Montanans involved in state government.

Sincerely.

HCTV Board Member

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